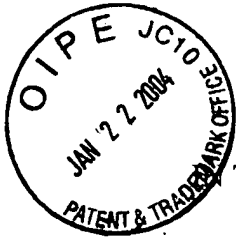


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PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of : Attorney Docket No.:  
Doug Ulbrich *et al.* : 9325-3CT1 (156244)  
Serial No.: 10/075,547 : Group Art Unit:  
: 1772  
Filed: February 14, 2002 : Examiner:  
For: Splice for a Heat Shrinkable Label : Patterson, Marc

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This is in response to the office action of October 20, 2003 and is being filed within the shortened statutory time period of three months set by the office action for response. Therefore, no certification, petition or fee is due.

Please charge any fee due, or credit any over-payment made, to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this document.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

BY

*Jeffrey R. Hanna*

DATE:

*1/20/04*